



New housing office creates easy access for soldiers



by **Kia Carter**
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Topeka, Kansas, Dec 13, 2005 -- Soldiers and their families transferring to Fort Riley have a more visible form of housing help. The USDA opened an office on post to aid them in their housing search.

A cut ribbon marked the opening of a new office at Fort Riley dedicated to helping new soldiers find homes. It's already helped Specialist Shane Warren and his family buy their Abilene home.

"It gives me a sense of security that I can have a house to get income on after I move and if I get out I have someplace to stay," says SPC Warren, Fort Riley Vet Services.

The USDA Rural Development Program gave the Warrens the loan they used to buy a home. The housing program isn't new but the office on post is.

"It really gives a center for the all the soldiers. A lot of times you go around and get the run around for a lot of things. It's really good to come to one place and get all the answers," says SPC Warren.

"Soldiers and their families can access the information easily, can get their questions answered and can sign the paperwork and become homeowners in a much more convenient way," says Jerry Moran, (R) Kansas Congressman.

Ultimately it's hoped that 6,000 new homes will go up in and around Junction City. The USDA's new office will make it easier to move soldiers into those homes.

"Being a military wife, its kind of hectic and stressful, and going through this office just made it easier," says Catheryn Warren, wife of SPC Warren.

Steps making home ownership an easier walk for soldiers and their loved ones.

The Rural Development Agency Housing Office will give soldiers information about housing, help them access lenders and get a home loan. The partnership between the Army and USDA is the first of it's kind, working to prepare the area for thousands of soldiers transferring there in the next five years.